

REMARKS

The Examiner's Action mailed on October 27, 2005 has been received and its contents carefully considered. Applicant notes with appreciation that the Examiner has allowed claim 18 and has indicated that the subject matter of claims 8 and 14 defines over the cited art of record. In view of the remarks in the Office Action, Applicants have amended claim 1-5, 8, 11-12, 14, and 17 for consideration. After entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1-18 remain pending. For at least the following reasons, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-7, 11-13 and 17 were tentatively rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by *Horiuchi et al.* (US 5,729,310). For at least the reasons set forth below, Applicants' respectfully request that these rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Applicants' amended independent claim 1 recites a liquid crystal display comprising a front bezel, a frame and a diffuser. The front bezel has a first fastened member. The frame is deposited below the front bezel. The diffuser plate is deposited below the frame and has a second fastened member. The frame has a **first hooking member** with respect to the first fastened member and a **second hooking member** with respect to the second fastened member. Among other significant features, claim 1 recites: "the first hooking member and the second hooking member are respectively coupled with the first fastened member and with the second fastened member simultaneously so that **the front bezel, the frame and the diffuser plate are integrated as a whole.**"

In contrast, *Horiuchi et al.* disclose a light apparatus including a housing 5, a linear light source 6, a light guide plate 12, a diffusing plate 13, a lens 14, a reflecting plate 15, a radiating plate 16, an upper frame 1 and a lower frame 2. The linear light source 6, the light guide plate 12, the diffusing plate 13, the lens 14, the reflecting plate 15 and the radiating plate 16 are

sandwiched between the upper frame 1 and the lower frame 2. Produced at the edges of the upper frame 1 are the protrusions 3 which each has a barb at the end to snap engage with the recesses 10 in the lower frame 2. The holes 17 into which the pins 11 of the lower frame 2 are fitted are formed on the edges of the light guide plate 12, the diffusing plate 13, the lens 14, the reflecting plate 15, the radiating plate 16 and the upper frame 1, in locations corresponding to the pins 11. (see column 4, lines 23-33; column 5 lines 16-37; column 5 lines 57-62; FIGs. 5-6). The following description will discuss a method of assembling the lighting apparatus. First, positioning is performed by fitting the pins 11 of the lower frame 2 into the holes 17 of the radiating plate 16, reflecting plate 15, light guiding plate 12, diffusing plate 13 and lens 14 in this order. Thereafter, the linear light source 6 is disposed on the lower frame 2. Subsequently, the positioning of the upper frame 1 and the lower frame 2 is performed by fitting the pins 11 of the lower frame 2 into the holes 17 of the upper frame 1, and then the upper frame 1 and the barbed lower frame 2 are fixed to each other by engaging the protrusions 3 of the upper frame 1 with the recessions 10 of the lower frame 2. Thereafter, the harness 9 of the linear light source 6 is inserted into the slit 7 in the upper frame 1 that is provided for fixing the harness 9, and fixed with the stopper 8. By performing the above-mentioned processes, the lighting apparatus is completed. Further, a liquid crystal display device can be fabricated by layering the liquid crystal display panel 4 on the lighting apparatus, covering them with the housing 5, and fixing them with vises (not shown). (column 6 lines 5-24; FIGs.5-6)

Significantly, there is no disclosure (or even a suggestion) by *Horiuchi et al.* of the first hooking member and the second hooking member of the frame being respectively coupled with the first fastened member of the front bezel and with the second fastened member of the diffuser simultaneously so that the front bezel, the frame and the diffuser plate are integrated as a whole, as expressly recited in independent claim 1. Instead, *Horiuchi et al.* disclose that the

positioning is performed by fitting the pins 11 of the lower frame 2 into the holes 17 of the radiating plate 16, reflecting plate 15, light guiding plate 12, diffusing plate 13 and lens 14 in this order, rather than fixing. Further, *Horiuchi et al.* disclose that the positioning of the upper frame 1 and the lower frame 2 is performed by fitting the pins 11 of the lower frame 2 into the holes 17 of the upper frame 1, and then the upper frame 1 and the barbed lower frame 2 are fixed to each other by engaging the protrusions 3 of the upper frame 1 with the recessions 10 of the lower frame 2. The upper frame 1, the light guide plate 12, the diffusing plate 13, the lens 14, the reflecting plate 15, the radiating plate 16 and the lower frame 2 are integrated as a whole, without integrating the housing 5 therewith.

For at least these reasons, independent claim 1 patently defines over *Horiuchi*. For at least the same reasons, claims 2-7 and 11, which depend from claim 1, are not anticipated by (or rendered obvious by) *Horiuchi*.

Likewise, independent claim 12 recites limitations similar those of claim 1. Specifically, claim 12 recites that: "the first hooking member and the second hooking member are respectively coupled with the first fastened member and with the second fastened member simultaneously so that the front bezel, the panel, the frame, the multilayer optical film and the diffuser plate are integrated as a whole." As such, independent claim 12, as well as claims 13 and 17, which depend from claim 12, patently define over *Horiuchi et al.* As such, the rejections should be withdrawn.

Claims 9-10 and 15-16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over *Horiuchi et al.* (US 5729310) in view of *Hayashimoto et al.* (US 2003/0122992). Because the cited secondary reference by *Hayashimoto et al.* fail to overcome the deficiencies of *Horiuchi et al.*, it is submitted that these claims are patentable over the cited

references for at least the reasons advanced above as to the patentability of amended independent claim 1, from which these claims respectively depend, as well as for the additional features recited therein.


CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all pending claims are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

No fee is believed to be due in connection with this amendment and response to Office Action. If, however, any fee is believed to be due, you are hereby authorized to charge any such fee to deposit account No. 20-0778.

Respectfully submitted,

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